

European Patent Application

"Protocol for Instant Messaging"

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Claims:

1. Method for the transmission of messages in a distributed system,  
10 the method comprising the following steps:
- reception of a message from a sending client (9) by a first message gateway (4),
  - transmission of meta information extracted from the received message from the first message gateway (4) to a message broker (2),
  - selection of a second message gateway (5) on the basis of the meta information and  
15 client profile data (3), and
  - sending the message from the first message gateway (4) to the selected second message gateway (5) to transfer it to a target client (8).
2. Method according to claim 1,  
20 characterized in that
- the message broker (2) processes the meta information to provide for security and authentication and returns it to the first message gateway (4).
3. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims,  
25 characterized in that
- the message broker (2) processes the meta information and returns it to the first message gateway (4) and in that, controlled by the processed meta information, the message is sent to the selected second gateway (5) together with the meta information.
4. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims,  
30 characterized in that
- the message itself is converted by a message processor (7) before it is sent to the selected second message gateway (5).

5. Computer program product,  
characterized in that

it implements a method according to anyone of the preceding claims when loaded in the  
5 memory of a computing device in a network environment.

6. Distributed system for the transmission of messages,  
the system comprising:

- a first message gateway (4) for the reception of messages from sending clients (9) and  
10 for the extraction of meta information from the received messages,
- a message broker (2) for receiving the meta information from the first message  
gateway (4), processing the meta information and returning it to the first message  
gateway (4), and
- a second message gateway (5) for receiving the message from the first message  
15 gateway (4) controlled by the processed meta information and for sending the message  
to a target client (8).

7. Distributed system according to claim 6,  
characterized by

- 20 a client profile database (3) connected to the message broker (2),  
wherein the message broker (2) processes the meta information on the basis of the data  
of the client profile database (3).

8. Distributed system according to anyone of claims 6 or 7,  
25 characterized in that  
the message broker (2) provides for a security and/or authentication functionality.

9. Distributed system according to anyone of claims 6 to 8,  
characterized by

- 30 a message processor (7) interconnected between the first and second message gateway  
(4, 5) for processing the content of the message.